

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02936 150505Z

11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /163 W

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R 150430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7396

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MR KU

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0679

1. MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS VISITED KUWAIT AUG 9-12.  
VISIT WAS LOW-KEY WITH LITTLE PUBLICITY.

2. UPON ARRIVAL MR. MOUKNASS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT  
A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO REACH DECISION  
ON SEVERING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN A FEW MONTHS TIME AS  
DIRECT RESULT OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, WHICH HAVE GENERALLY  
BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS ON THE  
PART OF RICH ARAB COUNTRIES. IF STATES DECIDE TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL  
"WESTERN AND SPECIFICALLY AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID WILL NATURALLY  
BE DISCONTINUED." (PRESS NOT CLEAR IF QUOTE WAS MADE BY MOUKNASS  
OR INSERTED BY REPORTER.) THE MINISTER ALSO SAID MAURITANIA  
WOULD OPEN EMBASSY IN KUWAIT IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. FONMIN STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH AMIR AND OTHER  
GOK OFFICIALS SAID THAT MOUKNASS THANKED KUWAIT FOR ITS FREINDLY  
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02936 150505Z

GESTURES TOWARD MAURITANIA. IT ADDED THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO

SUPPORT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGAINST COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID, AND ON NEED TO RESTORE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEIR FULL RIGHTS AND TO LIBERATE THEIR OCCUPIED LAND. THEY ALSO AGREED TO MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF COMING CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS IN ALGIERS.

4. COMMENT: FONMIN DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, ISA AL-HAMAD, SAID THAT MAURITANIA CONSIDERS ITSELF A "BRIDGE" BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND WAS ENCOURAGING ARAB STATES TO SUPPORT PROPOSALS OF AFRICAN STATES. VISIT PRIMARILY AIMED AT PREPARATION FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS.

5. AL-HAMAD ADDED THAT, OF COURSE, MAURITANIA WAS ALSO SEEKING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM KUWAIT. IT HAD BEEN PLANNED THAT DETAILS OF THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WORKED OUT DURING MINISTER OF FINANCE AND OIL ATIQI'S PROPOSED VISIT LATER THIS YEAR. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, ATIQI'S VISIT HAS HAD TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL 1974.

6. RE KUWAIT FUND ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA -- AL-HAMAD SAID THAT AFTER KUWAITI DELEGATION VISIT TO MAURITANIA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO GOK DECIDED TO CONSIDER MAURITANIA AS "ARAB STATE" AND THEREFORE ENTITLED TO ASSISTANCE FROM KFAED, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE. THIS DECISION TAKEN ON BASIS OF FACT THAT MAURITANIA WAS BOTH ARAB AND AFRICAN SO IT COULD FIT DEFINITION OF "ARAB STATE".  
STOLTZFUS

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